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“No Grain” Horse Feed Labelling Guideline

This document is aimed at providing guidance to feed manufacturers in the use of label statements about grain content of horse feeds.

Use of the terms “no grain” or “grain free” should be used carefully and need to take account of both whole grains and grain milling by-products such as millrun and rice pollard.

The major issue presented through this labelling guidance relates to use of “no grain” and “grain free” product statements when the feed contains cereal milling by-products, and these feeds are fed to horses prone to insulin intolerance and are at risk of laminitis.

Feeds should not be labelled as “no grain” or “grain free” if they contain cereal grains or cereal grain by-products. Cereal grains being defined as wheat, oats, barley, triticale, corn, sorghum, rice, rye and their milling by-products.

Where alternate ingredients such as soybean hulls or grain legumes are in use, the term “no grain” should not be used. Where such materials are used and no cereal grains are in the feed, and a statement about grain content is made, this should be equivalent to “Does not contain cereal grain”.

In all cases ingredients in use need to be identified on the product label.

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